

-PATENT 5468-02200/AT9-99-732

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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n re Application of:

Schwerdtfeger et al.

Serial No. 09/458,646

Filed: December 9, 1999

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Group Art Unit: 2178 Examiner: Adam Queler

Atty. Dkt. No. AT9-99-732

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AMENDMENT: RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED JULY 31, 2003

MS: Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313

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Technology Center 2100

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2003 to further highlight reasons why the captioned application is in condition for allowance. Please amend the case as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.